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ATTN: HQ ROME

IN DATE

DUNS: 06-446-2674
TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTER OF
SANTA ANA, INC
+TRINITY BROADCASTING
NETWORK
+KTBN TV CHRISTIAN CENTER
+TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTER
+TBN TV

DATE PRINTED
SEP 09 1997

SUMMARY
RATING --

OPERATES RELIGIOUS
TELEVISION STATION
& PROVIDES
PRODUCTION
PROGRAMMING
SERVICES

STARTED 1973
EMPLOYS UNDETERMINED
(UNDETERM
INED HERE)
HISTORY CLEAR

PO BOX A
SANTA ANA CA 92711
2442 MICHELLE DR
AND BRANCH(ES) OR DIVISION(S)
TUSTIN CA 92780
TEL: 714 832-2950

SIC NOS.
48 33 79 22

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: PAUL F CROUCH, PRES

* * * CUSTOMER SERVICE * * *

If you need any additional information, would like a credit recommendation, or have any questions, please call our Customer Service Center at (800) 234-3867 from anywhere within the U.S. From outside the U.S., please call your local D&B office.

* * * SUMMARY ANALYSIS * * *

The Summary Analysis section reflects information in D&B's file as of September 8, 1997.

RATING SUMMARY

The absence of a Rating (--) indicates that the information available to D&B does not permit us to assign a Rating to this business. In this case, no Rating was assigned because the number of employees is undetermined.

Below is an overview of the company's D&B Rating(s) since 11/3/91 to 01/01/92:

RATING

DATE APPLIED

-- 11/03/93
5A1 12/18/92
5A2 11/19/92
-- 01/01/91

(DO NOT SERIALIZE)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 14 1997	
FBI	ME

(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6) (b)(7)(C)

 * * * PAYMENT SUMMARY * * *

The Payment Summary section reflects payment information in D&B's file as of the date of this report.

The PAYDEX for this company is 75.

This PAYDEX score indicates that payments to suppliers average 8 days beyond terms, weighted by dollar amounts. When dollar amounts are not considered, approximately 86% of the company's payments are within terms.

Below is an overview of the company's dollar-weighted payments, segmented by its suppliers' primary industries:

	TOTAL RCV'D	TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNTS	LARGEST HIGH CREDIT	% W/IN TERMS	DAYS SLOW			
	#	\$	\$	%	<31	31-60	61-90	91+
					%	%	%	%
Total in D&B's file	157	298,650	50,000					
Top 10 Industries:								
1 Nonclassified	12	10,150	5,000	99	-	-	-	1
2 Electric services	10	18,850	15,000	100	-	-	-	-
3 Air courier service	10	24,050	7,500	95	5	-	-	-
4 Telephone communictns	8	14,800	10,000	92	-	-	-	8
5 Ret building material	6	21,250	7,500	80	20	-	-	-
6 Mfg misc office eqpt	3	51,100	50,000	100	-	-	-	-
7 Security systems svcs	3	10,050	7,500	88	12	-	-	-
8 Mfg electric test prd	1	15,000	15,000	-	100	-	-	-
9 Misc computer service	1	10,000	10,000	100	-	-	-	-
10 Whol lumber/millwork	1	10,000	10,000	100	-	-	-	-
11 OTHER INDUSTRIES	97	102,600	7,500	78	13	3	5	1

Other Payment Categories:

Cash experiences	2	10,000	10,000
Payment record unknown	3	800	500
Unfavorable comments	0	0	0
Placed for collection			
with D&B	0	0	
other	0	N/A	

The highest "Now Owe" on file is \$15,000

The highest "Past Due" on file is \$15,000

Dun & Bradstreet has 157 payment experiences in its file for this company. For your convenience, we have displayed 80 representative experiences in the PAYMENTS section.

PAYMENTS (Amounts may be rounded to nearest figure in prescribed ranges)

Antic - Anticipated (Payments received prior to date of invoice)
Disc - Discounted (Payments received within trade discount period)
Ppt - Prompt (Payments received within terms granted)

REPORTED	PAYING RECORD	HIGH CREDIT	NOW OWES	PAST DUE	SELLING TERMS	LAST SALE WITHIN
08/97	Ppt	7500	2500	-0-		1 Mo
	Ppt	5000	-0-	-0-		6-12 Mos
	Ppt	2500	2500	-0-		
	Ppt	2500	-0-			2-3 Mos
	Ppt	1000	1000	-0-		
	Ppt	1000	250	-0-		1 Mo
	Ppt	750	-0-	-0-		1 Mo
	Ppt	500	500	-0-	N30	1 Mo
	Ppt	500	-0-	-0-	N30	6-12 Mos
	Ppt	250	250	-0-	N30	1 Mo
	Ppt	250	-0-	-0-		6-12 Mos
	Ppt	250	100		N15	
	Ppt	250	250	-0-		
	Ppt	250	250	-0-	N15	1 Mo
	Ppt	100	-0-	-0-	N30	6-12 Mos
	Ppt	100	100		N15	
	Ppt	100	-0-	-0-	1 10 N30	6-12 Mos
	Ppt	50	-0-	-0-		2-3 Mos
	Ppt	50	-0-	-0-		6-12 Mos
	Ppt	50	-0-	-0-		6-12 Mos
	Ppt	50	50	-0-		
	Ppt	50	50	-0-		
	Ppt	50	-0-	-0-		6-12 Mos
	Ppt-Slow 30	2500	2500	1000		1 Mo
	Ppt-Slow 30	500	500	250	N30	1 Mo
	Ppt-Slow 40	750	750	-0-	N10	
	Ppt-Slow 60	2500	-0-			2-3 Mos
	Ppt-Slow 60+	750	500	500		1 Mo
	Ppt-Slow 90	2500	2500	-0-	N30	1 Mo
	Slow 30	500	-0-	-0-	1 10 N30	6-12 Mos
	Slow 30	50	50	50		1 Mo
	Slow 90	500	-0-	-0-		6-12 Mos
07/97	Ppt	15000	15000			1 Mo
	Ppt	10000	2500	-0-		1 Mo
	Ppt	10000	-0-	-0-	1 10 N30	4-5 Mos
	Ppt	7500	7500	-0-	N15	1 Mo
	Ppt	7500	7500	-0-	N30	1 Mo
	Ppt	5000	2500	-0-		1 Mo
	Ppt	5000	500	-0-		1 Mo
	Ppt	2500	1000	-0-	N15	1 Mo
	Ppt	2500	-0-	-0-		1 Mo
	Ppt	2500	2500	-0-	N30	1 Mo
	Ppt	2500	750	-0-	N15	1 Mo

Ppt	1000	-0-	-0-	N30	2-3 Mos
Ppt	1000	-0-	-0-		6-12 Mos
Ppt	1000	-0-	-0-	N30	1 Mo
Ppt	1000	500	-0-		1 Mo
Ppt	1000	1000	-0-	N30	1 Mo
Ppt	1000	-0-	-0-		6-12 Mos
Ppt	750	250	-0-	N30	1 Mo
Ppt	750	-0-	-0-		1 Mo
Ppt	750	750	250		1 Mo
Ppt	500	50	-0-	N15	1 Mo
Ppt	500	-0-	-0-		2-3 Mos
Ppt	500	-0-	-0-	N30	2-3 Mos
Ppt	500	500	-0-		1 Mo
Ppt	500	250	-0-	N30	1 Mo
Ppt	500	500	-0-	N30	1 Mo
Ppt	250	250	-0-	N30	1 Mo
Ppt	250	-0-	-0-	N30	1 Mo
Ppt	250	100	-0-		1 Mo
Ppt	250	-0-	-0-		2-3 Mos
Ppt	250	-0-	-0-	N30	6-12 Mos
Ppt	100	100	-0-		
Ppt	100	-0-	-0-		6-12 Mos
Ppt	100	100	-0-		1 Mo
Ppt	100	100	-0-	N30	
Ppt	100	100	-0-	N30	1 Mo
Ppt	100	50	-0-	N30	1 Mo
Ppt	50	50	-0-		1 Mo
Ppt	50	50	-0-		1 Mo
Ppt	50	-0-	-0-		6-12 Mos
Ppt	50	50	-0-		1 Mo
Ppt-Slow 15	2500	-0-	-0-		1 Mo
Ppt-Slow 90	5000	5000	1000		1 Mo
Slow 30	5000	-0-		N30	2-3 Mos
Slow 15-45	250	-0-	-0-	N30	1 Mo
06/97 Slow 30-60	1000	-0-	-0-	N30	2-3 Mos
02/97 Slow 90	50	-0-	-0-	N30	6-12 Mos
01/97 Ppt-Slow 30	7500	7500	750		1 Mo

* Payment experiences reflect how bills are met in relation to the terms granted. In some instances payment beyond terms can be the result of disputes over merchandise, skipped invoices etc.

* Each experience shown represents a separate account reported by a supplier. Updated trade experiences replace those previously reported.

FINANCE

05/29/97

On MAY 29 1997

deferred all information.

PUBLIC FILINGS

The following data is for information purposes only and is not the official record. Certified copies can only be obtained from the official source.

* * * LIEN(S) * * *

A lienholder can file the same lien in more than one filing location. The appearance of multiple liens filed by the same lienholder against a debtor may be indicative of such an occurrence.

FILING NO.: 920260446

AMOUNT: \$1,866

TYPE: County Tax

FILED BY: TAX COLLECTOR

AGAINST: TRINITY BROADCASTING NETWORK

WHERE FILED: ORANGE COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS
SANTA ANA, CA

STATUS: Released

DATE STATUS ATTAINED: 01/16/1996

LATEST INFO COLLECTED: 08/26/1996

FILING NO.: 920260446

TYPE: County Tax

FILED BY: TAX COLLECTOR

AGAINST: TRINITY BROADCASTING NETWORK INC

WHERE FILED: ORANGE COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS
SANTA ANA, CA

STATUS: Released

DATE STATUS ATTAINED: 01/16/1996

LATEST INFO COLLECTED: 08/26/1996

* * * UCC FILING(S) * * *

COLLATERAL: Equipment

FILING NO: 9634060324

TYPE: Original

SEC. PARTY: KOMORI WEST INC, COMPTON, CA

DEBTOR: TRINITY BROADCASTING NETWORK,
INC.TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTER OF
SANTA ANA, INC., TUSTIN, CA

DATE FILED: 12/03/1996

LATEST INFO RECEIVED: 12/27/1996

FILED WITH: SECRETARY OF
STATE/UCC DIVISION,
CA

COLLATERAL: Equipment

FILING NO: 9630460397

TYPE: Original

SEC. PARTY: KOMORI WEST INC., COMPTON, CA

DEBTOR: TRINITY BROADCASTING NETWORK,
INC.

DATE FILED: 10/25/1996

LATEST INFO RECEIVED: 11/12/1996

FILED WITH: SECRETARY OF
STATE/UCC DIVISION,
CA

The public record items contained in this report may have been paid, terminated, vacated or released prior to the date this report was printed.

HISTORY
05/29/97

PAUL F CROUCH, PRESIDENT+

DIRECTOR(S): THE OFFICER(S)

Corporate file #F2108298.

Business started Aug 1973 by Paul F Crouch.

According to published reports dated Dec 9, 1995, it was indicated that Trinity Christian Center Of Santa Ana, Inc dba Trinity Broadcasting Network dba KTBN TV Christian Center dba Trinity Christian Center dba TBN TV set up a "sham" corporation to take advantage of minority preference for broadcast licenses. This was a ruling made by a Federal Judge. As a result, Trinity Christian Center Of Santa Ana, Inc dba Trinity Broadcasting Network dba KTBN TV Christian Center dba Trinity Christian Center dba TBN TV has been denied renewal of a federal license for its \$15 million television station in Miami, FL. The case is currently being appealed. The decision could possibly jeopardize its licenses for 13 of their full-power commercial stations. Case # 93-75.

PAUL F CROUCH born 1934. OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: 1955-65 active with various radio stations as an announcer, latterly with KRSD-AM & TV, Rapid City, SD. 1965-71 KREL-AM Station, Corona, CA, latterly as vice president. No stock interest. 1971-73 KHOF-FM & TV, San Bernardino, CA, general manager. 1973-present active here.

Affiliates: The following are related through common principals, management and/or ownership.

Juggert & Wayman, A Professional Corporation, Costa Mesa, CA. DUNS #03-991-0682. Started in 1972. Operates as a law office. Financial information was not available as of May 29 1997. Related through common principal, [REDACTED] Intercompany relations were declined by management.

OPERATION

05/29/97

Operates a television station, operating Channel 40, KTBN-TV, a non-profit station featuring religious programs. Also provides television production programming services. Percentage breakdown of operations was declined. Revenues are derived from donations, pledges, sponsors and cost sharing of air fees for television services and production. Sells to the general public and to other television stations. Territory: National and International. Percentage breakdown was declined. Nonseasonal.

EMPLOYEES: Undetermined which includes officer(s). Undetermined employed here.

FACILITIES: Owns 20,000 sq. ft. in a one story concrete block building.

LOCATION: Industrial section on side street.

BRANCHES: Corporation owns two administrative facilities at

14131 Chambers Rd, Tustin, CA and at Michelle Dr, Tustin, CA. Both locations operate under the same name as the headquarters. Affiliate stations are also located in other major cities in the United States. The names of these cities were not provided.

SUBSIDIARIES: This business has 6 subsidiaries listed below. The extent of ownership where known, is shown in parenthesis following company name:

- (1) Trinity Broadcasting of Arizona (Inc), Phoenix, AZ (100%) chartered 1981. Operates as a religious television station. Intercompany relations: None reported by management. Net worth as of Dec 31 1995 was \$(754,414). DUNS #08-545-9600.
 - (2) Trinity Broadcasting of Indiana (Inc), Richmond, IN (100%) chartered 1981. Operates as a religious television station. Intercompany relations: None reported by management. Financial information was not available as of May 29 1997. DUNS #10-364-6204.
 - (3) Trinity Broadcasting Network (Inc), Canton, OH (100%) chartered 1986. Operates as a religious television station. Intercompany relations: None reported by management. Financial information was not available as of May 29 1997. DUNS #15-197-9606.
 - (4) Trinity Broadcasting of NY Inc, Fishkill, NY (100%) chartered 1981. Operates as a religious television station. Intercompany relations: None reported by management. Financial information was not available as of May 29 1997. DUNS #06-422-7846.
 - (5) Trinity Broadcasting of Oklahoma City, Inc, Oklahoma City, OK (100%) chartered 1976. Operates as a religious television station. Intercompany relations: None reported by management. Financial information was not available as of May 29 1997. DUNS #08-247-5518.
 - (6) Trinity Broadcasting of Washington (Inc), Federal Way, WA (100%) chartered 1984. Operates as a religious television station. Intercompany relations: None reported by management. Financial information was not available as of May 29 1997. DUNS #10-338-3121.
- 09-09(391 /391) 45101 098098098 H
BANK: Wells Fargo Bank, Anaheim, CA.

FULL DISPLAY COMPLETE

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 3 STORIES

Copyright 1996 UMI Inc.;
Copyright Nashville Business Journal Inc 1996;
Business Dateline;
Nashville Business Journal

July 8, 1996

SECTION: Vol 12; No 28; pg 1

LENGTH: 530 words

HEADLINE: Gospel music hall of fame next addition for Trinity

BYLINE: Don Mooradian

DATLINE: Hendersonville, TN; US; South Central

BODY:

HENDERSONVILLE--Trinity Music City USA is expected to begin construction soon on a gospel music hall of fame and museum.

This comes at a time when the possibility of a similar project is being discussed in Nashville by the Gospel Music Association and while work has started on another gospel hall of fame in East Tennessee.

Trinity recently purchased the 16,000-square-foot International Village, a retail center adjacent to its property on Music Village Boulevard in Hendersonville, for \$ 7776,000 from International Village Joint Venture. Hank Levine, a commercial broker with Elite Real Estate Group in Hendersonville, represented both the buyer and the seller.

"The idea for the purchase is to do that," says Trinity spokesman Colby May, regarding the organization's plans for a gospel music museum and hall of fame. "Within the next couple of months, you'll see some activity up there."

Trinity Music City USA is on the grounds of the former Twitty City, home of the late country music entertainer, Conway Twitty. It is a part of Trinity Christian Center of Santa Ana Inc., which is headquartered in Santa Ana, Calif., and also operates the Trinity Broadcasting Network, a 506-station religious television network.

May says the exact plans, such as size and design for the project, are still in the evaluation process.

But, he says, the project will showcase and highlight the role gospel and inspirational music has played in the United States, and its relationship to country music.

The project is not connected to the Gospel Music Association, which recently acquired an entity called Gospel Music Hall of Fame, located in GMA's headquarters on Division Street in Nashville.

Nashville Business Journal, July 8, 1996

The two organizations had technically been separate legal entities, but had been closely tied, says Frank Breedon, secretary of the board of directors for GMA.

The Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame consists of portraits of its 50 or so inductees and a library of gospel music. Although GMA officials say people can visit what they view essentially as a resource center, it is not a "tourist stop, per se," says Breedon.

However, a GMA committee is now studying the situation, he says.

"Our intent is to develop that somehow and to more appropriately honor past, present and future inductees," says Breedon.

And work on yet another hall of fame and museum for gospel music has begun across the state in Sevierville, where the Southern Gospel Music Association recently broke ground for a facility honoring the traditional music form. Sevierville is located in the tourist mecca of Sevier County, in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains next to Pigeon Forge and near Gatlinburg.

Trinity is currently appealing a decision made by the state Board of Equalization over whether it should be granted tax-exempt status for Trinity Music City U.S.A., claiming the company is a church. An attorney for the board ruled in March that the site is a tourist attraction, and should be subject to taxation.

Current tenants in International Village include REN Center, a kidney dialysis treatment center; Doggy Daze, a pet grooming center, a hair salon and several other businesses.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

UNI-ACC-NO: 9676257

JOURNAL-CODE: NASH BTL

LOAD-DATE: August 1, 1996

LEVEL 1 - 2 OF 3 STORIES

Copyright 1993 Southam Inc.
Calgary Herald

July 10, 1993, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: RELIGION; Pg. B8

LENGTH: 1791 words

HEADLINE: BEAM ME DOWN, PAUL

BYLINE: DAN MALONE, DALLAS MORNING NEWS

BODY:

Trinity Broadcasting is wildly successful but is now fending off charges of questionable practices

"Tears began rolling down my face as I reached out and laid my hands on the cold curved steel of the microwave dish..."

TV evangelist Paul Crouch describing Trinity Broadcasting Network's first broadcast

IRVING, Texas

The way Paul Crouch tells his story, Trinity Broadcasting Network's first television show was made with a borrowed camera, two folding chairs and a Sears shower curtain for a backdrop.

Today, as Trinity embarks on its 21st year of operation, it has become the world's largest religious network.

Crouch's once-fledgling Praise The Lord show is shown worldwide on 345 stations from Irving to Italy. And the amalgam of non-profit organizations that Crouch heads has an estimated market value of \$ 500 million US with revenues in 1991 of \$ 74 million US.

During the past five years, several church-run pirate stations rebroadcast Trinity in Canada in places like Lethbridge, Three Hills and Grande Prairie. Pressure from those producers contributed to the recent relaxation of federal regulations governing religious broadcasting in Canada.

Now several church organizations have indicated an interest in rebroadcasting the Trinity network in centres across Canada.

Although Crouch credits a series of miracles for Trinity's phenomenal rise, the religious network retains some secular tethers. In recent years, for example, Crouch and Trinity have defended themselves against charges of defamation, questionable business practices and using a minority front to expand broadcast holdings.

The silver-haired Crouch declined through associates requests for an

Calgary Herald, July 10, 1993

interview with The Dallas Morning News. An attorney, Colby May of Washington, said Crouch doesn't talk to the "secular press." He said Crouch "quite rationally and quite understandably decided, 'Forget it. They never treat me fair, so why bother?'"

The legal controversies involving Trinity, May said, are outweighed by lives Trinity has saved.

"You can stack up a lot of lawsuits and a lot of people calling people names, but the weight of the scale is in the favor of that one person not killing themselves or the literally thousands of people who called in and said, 'I'm an alcoholic, I'm a drug abuser and I'm a child abuser,'" he said.

"That's the story, and on a scale that's huge."

In a recently published autobiographical history of Trinity, Crouch acknowledges some of the controversies he's faced during the past 20 years.

"God brought us through the deep waters, the fiery furnaces, the lion's den, even what seemed to be the pits of Hell itself to establish one of the greatest voices for God in the history of the world," Crouch writes.

Like its far-flung television network, Trinity's legal battles stretch from coast to coast.

In Tarrant County, Trinity is one of several defendants being sued by a teenager who says a counsellor working at a rehabilitation centre at Trinity's ranch swapped him drugs for sex. The counsellor did not work for Trinity but for the Set Free Christian Fellowship, which operated the facility on the ranch.

In Washington, the Federal Communications Commission is holding hearings this month to determine whether minorities were used as fronts to circumvent a 12-station licensing limit by an individual interest.

In California, the organization has fended off allegations of broken promises and questionable finances.

And in Virginia, Crouch's book is at the centre of a lawsuit filed by a DeSoto, Texas, television consultant who contends that Crouch defamed him.

In court records, Trinity and Crouch have disputed each claim. Norman Juggart, a Costa Mesa, Calif., lawyer who also serves on Trinity's board, characterized the complaints as nuisance lawsuits, saying there "never has been a judgment entered against Trinity Broadcasting in any suit."

At the same time, Crouch and Trinity are among the targets of a controversial new book, Christianity in Crisis, by Hank Hanegraaff, who slams the "Faith movement" for heretical teachings.

* * *

Trinity Broadcasting Network Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1973 by three Southern California ministers -- Paul Crouch of Newport Beach, Jim Bakker of Irvine and Ralph Wilkerson of Anaheim, according to

Calgary Herald, July 10, 1993

California secretary of state records.

Bakker, now serving a federal prison term for fraud, and Wilkerson, pastor of the Melodyland Christian Center in Anaheim, left Trinity long ago after internal disputes over the network's future, according to Crouch's book.

Crouch remains president of its non-profit broadcasting network. According to the network officials, Trinity has about 300 employees, revenues of about \$ 74 million and pays Crouch about \$ 109,000 annually.

His friends say he has avoided the pitfalls of some fallen religious broadcasters by not becoming intoxicated by his success. As an example, they note that he has lived in the same house for more than 20 years.

Still, he maintains some of the trappings of his secular counterparts. Trinity's jet, an Israeli-made Astra Westwind, is valued at more than \$ 5 million. Trinity also owns a 66-acre ranch valued at \$ 1.1 million in nearby Colleyville, Texas. A photograph in his book shows Crouch mounted atop "my pride and joy," a white Arabian stallion named Prince.

Although board members of Trinity's organizations vary, Crouch, his wife, Jan. and Juggert, the lawyer and Crouch's longtime friend, are usually at the core.

During the past 10 years, Trinity's growth was almost exponential. Recently, newsletters have frequently announced the acquisition of, or affiliation with, new stations. In June, Crouch announced that Trinity had signed a preliminary contract to acquire a group of stations in Italy. If the deal goes through, Trinity says, its programs will be seen on 382 owned or affiliated stations in 44 states and 28 countries.

Trinity, according to promotional material, owns about half of about 300 television stations that carry its programs in the United States. All but a handful are small, low-power rebroadcasting units that carry Trinity's signal to such places as Uvalde, Texas, Waycross, Ga., and Olean, N.Y.

Trinity, records show, is a collection of about two dozen affiliated, non-profit and foreign corporations. Crouch, according to published reports, has previously estimated Trinity's market value at \$ 500 million. The \$ 74 million in revenues collected in 1991 included \$ 53 million in contributions, according to the network. In addition, Crouch has noted that Trinity is debt-free despite its growth.

Trinity Christian Center of Santa Ana, Calif., one of the non-profit corporations Crouch founded, published his 231-page paperback this year. It is a mix of autobiography, documenting Crouch's early days as a young Bible student, and history, chronicling Trinity's rise. The title, I Had No Father But God, is printed in gold over a photograph of Michelangelo's Creation of Adam.

The book is full of the distinctive typography familiar to those who have read Trinity's monthly newsletter -- a mix of italics, capitalizations, dashes and exclamation points.

In one passage, Crouch attributes Trinity's first broadcast to divina

Calgary Herald, July 10, 1993

Page 7

intervention. As engineers prepared for the inaugural broadcast, Crouch learned that a mountain blocked the transmitter.

"Tears began rolling down my face as I reached out and laid my hands on the cold curved steel of the microwave dish -- 'Father, you said that if we would have 'faith even as a grain of mustard seed,' you could SAY to THAT MOUNTAIN -- be thou removed and be cast into the sea.' His holy presence descended upon the roof of that studio, and somehow I KNEW that my Heavenly Father had heard and answered my prayer."

The next morning, Crouch said, the transmission problems were gone.

"God moved a mountain for us, and we will ever know that this was not just a spiritual mountain -- this was a real dirt, rock and tree mountain!"

* * *

Even in the telling of his story, however, Crouch spawned controversy.

Dick Bott Sr., the former head of the ethics committee of the National Religious Broadcasters, calls Crouch's account of his departure from the group "a remanufacture of history." A Desoto broadcasting consultant, Keith Houser, identified in the book by the pseudonym Heath Kaiser, has sued Crouch, alleging defamation.

The National Religious Broadcasters has about 650 members across the nation, including Billy Graham and Pat Robertson. But it no longer represents the founder of the world's largest religious broadcasting network.

The circumstances surrounding Crouch's resignation remain in dispute today.

As the National Religious Broadcasters was preparing to honor Trinity as foreign broadcaster of the year, officials told Crouch that they were considering withholding the honor because of rumors that he would be accused of having extramarital affairs, according to Crouch's book.

The rumored accusations, however, were not made, and the group bestowed the honor on Trinity after Crouch reassured board members that the allegations were untrue.

In 1989, however, a group of former Trinity employees and other associates, including Houser, filed complaints with the National Religious Broadcasters' ethics committee against Trinity.

The allegations, which covered activities over a period of 15 years, ranged from a "hostile takeover" of another Christian television station to the appropriation of a rival ministry's mailing list.

Crouch writes that he prepared an "11-page detailed response proving with voluminous documentation and exhibits the falsity of each charge." He says he resigned shortly after the National Religious Broadcasters issued a statement in December 1991, which Crouch characterized as "pretty high praise."

The statement, as quoted in Crouch's book, reads: "After reviewing the

Calgary Herald, July 10, 1993

Page 8

material made available to it, the Committee finds there is insufficient evidence to warrant termination of membership."

Not noted in the book, however, was another section of the National Religious Broadcasters' statement saying that the ethics committee "lacks the staff and financial resources to do a thorough and complete discovery in these matters."

This and other controversies do little to dampen Crouch's pursuit of what he calls "God's master plan" for Trinity. In the epilogue of his book, he compares Trinity, with 345 television stations, to a rocket about to be launched.

"Yes, we are ON OUR WAY," he writes. "We will not rest until every soul on planet earth receives the message of salvation in his own language through GOD'S MIRACLE OF TBN! Praise the Lord!"

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 11, 1993

LEVEL 1 - 3 OF 3 STORIES

Copyright 1993 The Dallas Morning News
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

June 20, 1993, Sunday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; PG. 1A

LENGTH: 3650 words

HEADLINE: Christian television ministry unfazed by legal controversies;
Minority-front use, defamation denied

BYLINE: Dan Malone, Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News; Copyright, 1993,
The Dallas Morning News

BODY:

The way Paul Crouch tells his story, Trinity Broadcasting Network's first television show was made with a borrowed camera, two folding chairs and a Sears shower curtain for a backdrop.

Today, as Trinity embarks on its 21st year of operation, it has become the world's largest religious network. Mr. Crouch's once-fledgling Praise the Lord show is shown worldwide on 345 stations from Irving to Italy. And the amalgam of nonprofit organizations that Mr. Crouch heads has an estimated market value of \$ 500 million with revenues in 1991 of \$ 74 million.

Although Mr. Crouch credits a series of miracles for Trinity's phenomenal rise, the religious network nevertheless retains some secular teachers. In recent years, for example, Mr. Crouch and Trinity have defended themselves against charges of defamation, questionable business practices and using a minority front to expand broadcast holdings.

The silver-haired Mr. Crouch, who may be seen nightly on KDTX (Channel 36) in Irving, declined through associates requests for an interview with The Dallas Morning News. An attorney, Colby May of Washington, said Mr. Crouch doesn't talk to the "secular press." He said Mr. Crouch, "quite rationally and quite understandably decided, 'Forget it. They never treat me fair, so why bother?'"

The legal controversies involving Trinity, Mr. May said, are outweighed by lives Trinity has saved.

"You can stack up a lot of lawsuits and a lot of people calling people names, but the weight of the scale is in the favor of that one person not killing themselves, or the literally thousands of people who called in and said, 'I'm an alcoholic, I'm a drug abuser and I'm a child abuser,'" he said.

"That's the story, and on a scale that's huge."

In a recently published autobiographical history of Trinity, Mr. Crouch acknowledges some of the controversies he's faced during the past 20 years.

"... God brought us through the deep waters, the fiery furnaces, the

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, June 20, 1993

lions' dens, even what seemed to be the pits of hell itself to establish one of the greatest voices for God in the history of the world,' Mr. Crouch writes. Expanding in Texas

Though based in Santa Ana, Calif., Trinity's presence in Texas has increased substantially in recent years.

Trinity's most visible presence in North Texas is the International Production Center, a 25,000-square-foot structure recently completed near Airport Freeway and West Irving Boulevard. The exterior of the building, which houses facilities for translating Trinity's programs for foreign broadcast, resembles the White House. Inside, two rooms are patterned after the Oval office.

The production center is adjacent to the studios of KDTX, the largest station Trinity owns in Texas.

When the network celebrated its 20th anniversary in May, it did so in Irving, splitting airtime between the two facilities.

Additionally, Trinity owns a ranch in Colleyville, in northeast Tarrant County, where Mr. Crouch and his wife, Jan, often stay. The 66 acres, according to a private review of tax records, are valued at \$ 1.5 million.

Like its far-flung television network, Trinity's legal battles stretch from coast to coast.

In Tarrant County, Trinity is one of several defendants being sued by a teen-ager who says a counselor working at a rehabilitation center at Trinity's ranch swapped him drugs for sex. The counselor did not work for Trinity but for the Set Prec Christian Fellowship, which operated the facility on the ranch.

In Washington, the Federal Communications Commission will hold hearings in July to determine whether minorities were used as fronts to circumvent a 12-station licensing limit by an individual interest.

In California, the organization has fended off allegations of broken promises and questionable finances.

And in Virginia, Mr. Crouch's back is at the center of a lawsuit filed by a DeSoto television consultant who contends that Mr. Crouch defamed him.

In court records, Trinity and Mr. Crouch have disputed each claim.

Norman Juggert, a Costa Mesa, Calif., lawyer who also serves on Trinity's board, characterized the complaints as nuisance lawsuits, saying there "never has been a judgment entered against Trinity Broadcasting in any suit." Spanning the globe

Trinity Broadcasting Network Inc., was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1973 by three Southern California ministers -- Paul Crouch of Newport Beach, James Bakker of Irvine and Ralph Wilkerson of Anaheim, according to California secretary of state records.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, June 20, 1993

Mr. Bakker, now serving a federal prison term for fraud, and Mr. Wilkerson, pastor of the Melodyland Christian Center in Anaheim, left Trinity long ago after internal disputes over the network's future, according to Mr. Crouch's book.

Although beard members of Trinity's organizations vary, Mr. Crouch, his wife Jen, and Mr. Juggert, the lawyer and Mr. Crouch's longtime friend, are usually at the core.

The fledgling network began with a single television station, now known as KTSN (Channel 40), in a Los Angeles suburb. During its first decade, Trinity grew slowly, adding stations in Phoenix and Denver.

During the past 10 years, however, Trinity's growth was almost exponential. Recent newsletters frequently announce the acquisition of, or affiliation with, new stations. In June, Mr. Crouch announced that Trinity had signed a preliminary contract to acquire a group of stations in Italy. If the deal goes through, Trinity says its programs will be seen on 382 owned or affiliated stations in 44 states and 28 countries.

Trinity, according to promotional material, owns about half of about 300 television stations that carry its programs in the United States. All but a handful are small, low-power rebroadcasting units that carry Trinity's signal to such places as Uvalde, Texas; Waycross, Ga.; and Olean, N.Y.

It is not possible to gauge Trinity's worldwide viewership because many of its stations broadcast in foreign countries, where such information is not readily available. In promotional material, however, Trinity claims to be the "most viewed religious network" in the nation.

No father but God

Trinity, records show, is a collection of about two dozen affiliated, nonprofit and foreign corporations. Mr. Crouch, according to published reports, previously has estimated Trinity's market value at \$ 500 million. The \$ 74 million in revenues collected in 1991 included \$ 53 million in contributions, according to the network. Additionally, Mr. Crouch has noted that Trinity is debt free despite its growth.

Trinity Christian Center of Santa Ana, one of the nonprofit corporations Mr. Crouch founded, published his 231-page paperback this year. It is a mix of autobiography, documenting Mr. Crouch's early days as a young Bible student, and history, chronicling Trinity's rise. The title, *I Had No Father But God*, is printed in gold over a photograph of Michelangelo's Creation of Adam.

The book is full of the distinctive typography familiar to those who have read Trinity's monthly newsletter -- a mix of italics, capitalizations, dashes and exclamation points.

In one passage, Mr. Crouch attributes Trinity's first broadcast to divine intervention. As engineers prepared for the inaugural broadcast, Mr. Crouch learned that a mountain blocked the transmitter.

"Tears began rolling down my face as I reached out and laid my hands on the

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, June 20, 1993

cold curved steel of the microwave dish -- "Father, you said that if we would have "faith even as a grain of mustard seed, you could SAY to THAT MOUNTAIN -- be thou removed and be cast into the sea.

... "His holy presance descended upon the roof of that studio, and somehow I KNEW that my Heavenly Father had heard and answered my prayer."

The next morning, Mr. Crouch said, the transmission problems were gone.

"God moved a mountain fer us, and we will ever know that this was not just a spiritual mountain -- this was a real dirt, rock and tree mountain!" Rumors, resignation

Even in the telling of his story, however, Mr. Crouch spawned controversy.

Dick Bott Sr., the former head of the ethics committee of the National Religious Broadcasters, calls Mr. Crouch's account of his departure from the group "a remanufacture of history." A DeSoto broadcasting consultant, Keith Heuser, identified in the book by the pseudonym "Heath Kaiser," has sued Mr. Crouch, alleging defamation.

The National Religious Broadcasters has about 650 members across the nation, including Billy Graham and Pat Robertson. But it no longer represents the founder of the world's largest religious broadcasting network.

The circumstances surrounding Mr. Crouch's resignation remain in dispute today.

As the National Religious Broadcasters was preparing to honor Trinity as foreign broadcaster of the year, officials told Mr. Crouch that they were considering withholding the honor because of rumors that he would be accused of having extramarital affairs, according to Mr. Crouch's book.

The rumored accusations, however, were not made, and the group bestowed the honor on Trinity after Mr. Crouch assured board members that the allegations were untrue.

In 1989, however, a group of former Trinity employees and other associates, including Mr. Heuser, filed complaints with the National Religious Broadcasters' ethics committee against Trinity.

The allegations, which covered activities over a period of 15 years, ranged from a "hostile takeover" of another Christian television station to the appropriation of a rival ministry's mailing list.

Mr. Crouch writes that he prepared an "11-page detailed response proving with voluminous documentation and exhibits the falsity of each charge." He says he resigned shortly after the National Religious Broadcasters issued a statement in December 1991, which Mr. Crouch characterized as "pretty high praise."

The statement, as quoted in Mr. Crouch's book, reads: "After reviewing the material made available to it, the Committee finds there is insufficient evidence to warrant termination of membership."

Not noted in the book, however, was another section of the National Religious

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, June 20, 1993

Broadcasters' statement saying that the ethics committee "lacks the staff and financial resources to do a thorough and complete discovery in these matters."

Also not noted was a second statement issued by the National Religious Broadcasters, which intended to clarify the group's position.

"It is important to understand that the decision of the Executive Committee does not mean that we do not consider the complaints of a serious nature, nor does the decision represent an exoneration by the NRB," the statement read.

Mr. Bott, the former ethics committee chief, said the book is "an extremely self-serving account."

Mr. Crouch's answers to the complaints against Trinity were "for the most part pugnacious, evasive and filled with attempts to accuse the NRB rather than simply address the issues at hand," Mr. Bott said in an interview.

Mr. May said the National Religious Broadcasters misinterpreted questions about procedures as attacks on the broadcasting group.

Mr. Bott also said that although Mr. Crouch did, in fact, resign, the National Religious Broadcasters board subsequently voted to withdraw his membership.

"It was the ruling of the entire board of directors that his membership should be withdrawn until a more complete and forthright response to these charges was submitted by him."

Mr. Bott's account of the vote, Mr. May said, "is a revelation to me."

"It's one that we have no knowledge of, and it's suspect to say the least." Courtroom challenges

Mr. Crouch's book also is the subject of a breach of contract and defamation lawsuit filed last month in a federal court in Virginia.

Mr. Houser contended that Mr. Crouch's book violated an agreement between the two men not to discuss their grievances.

In the book, "Roath Kaiser" is portrayed by Mr. Crouch as a persistent opponent of Trinity's expansion efforts. Trinity had purchased one of its full-power stations from Mr. Houser and others during the early 1980s, and the two men had been involved in litigation for years over the sale. The dispute ultimately was resolved through mediation.

The lawsuit does not specify what sections of the book Mr. Houser contends are defamatory, instead making a broad claim that the allegations "are in substantial and material ways false."

"There may be parties who don't like the way Dr. Crouch tells his side of it," said Mr. May, "but there's certainly nothing in it that's defamatory."

Mr. Houser also sought a temporary restraining order blocking Trinity from continuing to distribute Mr. Crouch's book, which has been offered to viewers. A judge, however, refused to approve the order.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, June 20, 1993

Mr. Houser referred questions about his lawsuit to his Alexandria, Va., attorney, Stuart Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell declined comment, saying the parties are trying to settle their dispute through mediation.

Mr. Crouch's relationship with another preacher, Phil Aguilar of the Set Free Christian Fellowship in Anaheim, also has led to controversy. Mr. Aguilar, who dresses in black, rides a Harley Davidson and wears his hair in a ponytail, presides over an unusual flock that includes, among others, inmates, police officers, low-riders, bikers and "Surfers for Christ."

Ryan Brewer knew neither Mr. Aguilar nor Mr. Crouch when he was sent in 1991 to the Set Free drug rehabilitation center operated on Trinity's ranch in Calleyville.

Mr. Brewer, now 19 and living in California, has since sued Mr. Aguilar and Mr. Crouch, their ministries and a counselor, hoping to hold them financially accountable for abuse he says he has suffered.

Instead of being rehabilitated from his drug habit, Mr. Brewer, in a lawsuit filed in Tarrant County, contends that Mario Yanez Ruiz -- the Set Free "overseer" at Trinity's ranch -- helped him obtain drugs in exchange for sexual favors.

Tara Reynolds, an attorney for Mr. Aguilar and Set Free, said her clients are "totally innocent of any wrongdoing."

Mr. May said Mr. Crouch, who in court records has denied responsibility for the teen-ager's plight, apparently is being sued only because of his "deep pockets."

Mr. Ruiz, the man who Mr. Brewer contends traded him drugs for sex, has been removed as "overseer" at the ranch and could not be reached for comment.

Minority front?

In Washington, Mr. Crouch's troubles center on Trinity's relationship to another broadcasting company, National Minority T.V. Inc., in which he also serves as president. The dispute involves a Florida TV station Trinity operates.

In records filed with the FCC, rival broadcaster Glendale Broadcasting Co., and a civil rights group, the Spanish American League Against Discrimination, contend that Trinity used National Minority T.V. as a front to evade a rule limiting the number of stations in which an individual may have an interest.

The limit is 12 stations; however, the FCC permits an individual to have an interest in as many as 14 stations, if two of them are minority-controlled.

Although the number of licenses in which Mr. Crouch has had an interest has fluctuated, the FCC says that at one point he not only had an interest in 12 stations licensed by Trinity but also two more licensed by National Minority T.V.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, June 20, 1993

In papers filed with the FCC, Trinity insisted that even though Mr. Crouch's is National Minority T.V. president, the company is a minority-controlled, independent broadcaster. The four-member board, according to the FCC, is made up of Mr. Crouch; one Hispanic, Mr. Aguilar; and two blacks, Jane Duff, an assistant to Mr. Crouch at Trinity, and the Rev. E.V. Hill, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Watts, who has a program on Trinity.

Mr. Aguilar and Ms. Duff were not available for comment. Mr. Hill, however, praised Mr. Crouch as a "blessing" and said more companies should follow Trinity's lead in joint ventures with minorities.

Even though the board is three-quarters minority, the FCC notes that Mr. Crouch and Ms. Duff, as paid employees of Trinity, maintain "negative control" because their two votes could block action of the remaining two members.

Additionally, the FCC noted the relationship between Trinity and Mr. Aguilar, pastor of a 4,000-member congregation in Anaheim.

"Aguilar's ministry, Set Free, receives from TBN (Trinity) \$5,000 per month and the free use of houses and properties in California, Texas and Illinois," the FCC said. "Set Free provides services to TBN which included 'Prayer Partners' who talk to callers and help in distributing goods donated by TBN viewers."

In records filed with the commission, the civil rights group contended that "MMTV is actually a transparent minority front, cynically and brazenly used by TBN to allow it to acquire and control more than 12 full-power television stations and numerous LPTV (low-power) stations."

Although hearings on the issue are set before an administrative law judge next month, an FCC official said appeals could prolong the outcome indefinitely.

A ruling against Trinity could result in a change of ownership at the Florida station and a possible fine of up to \$250,000 for Trinity or National Minority T.V., according to the FCC.

Mr. May described the dispute as a "very, very narrow and extremely complicated issue" which Trinity is eager to resolve. Trinity and National Minority T.V. made full disclosure of their relationship to the FCC before the licenses were granted, and the current review is the result of a change of administrations in Washington, he said.

"There's a new set of eyes saying we need to look at this," he said. "We are optimistic that it will be favorably resolved." An old man's dream.

Trinity's legal problems in California transcend its relationship with Mr. Aguilar. In its home state, it has been sued by members of another church and three former employees.

The late Vernon Gortnar was a preacher with a vision, according to a lawsuit filed in San Diego County. He believed that God wanted him to establish a church, a school and a retirement community for his congregation in northern San Diego County. He saw part of his dream come true -- 3,000 people flocked to his North County Christian Center for Sunday services during the church's heyday.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, June 20, 1993

during the mid-1970s, a member said.

A decade later, when Mr. Gortner was in his 70s, he decided to turn his ministry over to a kindred Christian group that could pursue his dream of a religious school and retirement home after his death.

Mr. Gortner and his congregation selected Mr. Crouch's Trinity Broadcasting Network. In 1985, North County Christian Center turned over its church building and more than 100 acres to Trinity in exchange for the ministry's promise to serve as steward to Mr. Gortner's dream, according to the lawsuit.

Five years after Trinity took over the church, four of Mr. Gortner's followers sued Mr. Crouch and his network.

Their 1990 lawsuit contended that Mr. Crouch and Trinity were "in the process of selling" the church property "to a totally different Christian denomination" for "in excess of \$ 6 million."

Additionally, according to the lawsuit, church members were told that they would have to find a new place for their religious services.

In court records, attorneys for Trinity responded that the church members had no basis to sue because they had not personally been damaged and that Trinity's nonprofit status afforded it protection against such lawsuits under California law.

A judge dismissed the claim but gave the plaintiffs an opportunity to refile an amended lawsuit. The case never went to trial. The dispute was settled, and neither side would discuss the terms of their settlement.

A charge from within

During the late 1980s, Ralph and Ruth Ward, and their son, Bruce, all worked at Trinity. Mrs. Ward was personnel director, her husband was supervisor of the warehouse, and the son was a computer programmer.

Then in June 1990, all three were fired.

In a lawsuit the family filed in Orange County in September 1990, the Wards contend that they were fired because Ruth Ward had discovered that Trinity was paying some of its employees as contract laborers to "avoid the payment of state and federal employer income taxes."

When she discussed the issue with Mr. Crouch, she said he told her:

"Here's the way I want to handle contract labor. If a person works every day of the year with the exception of one week, they are to be paid on contract labor and not put on payroll."

The Wards contend that they were fired to prevent them "from further learning about and/or stopping illegal and unethical practices" at Trinity.

The wards also contended that some employees took donations meant for other ministries, as well as food, clothing and other items donated by viewers for the

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, June 20, 1993

needy.

In court records, Mr. Crouch and Trinity denied all of the Wards' allegations, saying they were fined for 'habitual neglect' and 'negligent performance' of their duties.

A judge, however, dismissed the lawsuit, saying the family's case was pre-empted by federal law, according to the Wards' attorney, Joel W. Baruch.

Mr. May, the attorney for Mr. Crouch, said the claim centered on a tax issue about which experts rarely agree.

"As the judge found, if you ask any 10 accountants and tax lawyers and any 10 IRS agents enforcing this particular aspect of the law, you'll get 10 different answers," Mr. May said.

Such controversies do little to dampen Mr. Crouch's pursuit of what he calls "God's master plan" for Trinity. In the epilogue of his book, he compares Trinity, with 345 television stations, to a rocket about to be launched.

"Yes, we are ON OUR WAY," he writes. "We will not rest until every soul on planet earth receives the message of salvation in his own language through GOD's MIRACLE OF TBN! Praise the Lord!"

GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): 1. (The Dallas Morning News: Louis Deluca) Paul Crouch talks to his television audience from his International Broadcast Center in Irving. Mr. Crouch's ministry, the Trinity Broadcasting Network, is now in its 21st year of operation and has become the world's largest religious network. Mr. Crouch's Praise the Lord program is shown on 345 stations worldwide, from Irving to Italy. 2. (The Dallas Morning News: Louis Deluca) The Trinity Broadcasting Network's International Production Center is a 25,000-square-foot structure near Airport Freeway and West Irving Boulevard.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 25, 1993